Afghanistan

1-5 Cav Security Assessment

By, 2LT Shawn C. Stroop, Tactical Intelligence Officer, 1-5 CAV

References: CIA World Fact book, Jane's Sentinel

Geography:

UZBEKISTAN
Dushanbe
TURKMENISTAN
Mashhad
Kabul
Peshawar
Rawalpindi
Afghanistan
IRAN
AFGHANISTAN
PAKISTAN
Gujranwala
Lahore
Faisalabad
Ludhiana
INDIA
Multan
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0 86mi
0 139km

Climatic Summary:

	Temp		Humidity		Rai
	Ma	Mi	AM	PM	mm
Jan	35	17	80	70	31
Feb	39	21	79	62	36
Mar	53	33	76	44	94
Apr	66	42	69	35	102
May	78	51	61	32	20
Jun	87	55	52	24	5
Jul	91	60	58	22	3
Aug	91	59	54	23	3
Sep	84	51	58	18	0
Oct	73	42	59	22	15
Nov	62	33	67	31	20
Dec	46	26	76	5	10

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE
Min 5°C
Max 20°C

ANNUAL RAINFALL
339 mm

AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY
65% AM
32% PM

Weather:

- Arid hot summers
- Extreme cold winters

Physical Geography:

- Overview
  - Location: Southern Asia, between Iran and Pakistan.
  - Land Borders: China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
  - Consist of mountain ranges and low-lying areas
  - East: Mountains form a chain called the Hindu Kush; linked to the Himalayan mountains. Movement is restricted to river basin increasing the vulnerability to ambush attacks. Light infantry is needed to operated in these areas.
  - Low-Lying area's- Densely populated and located on the periphery of the country or as valleys between mountain ranges.

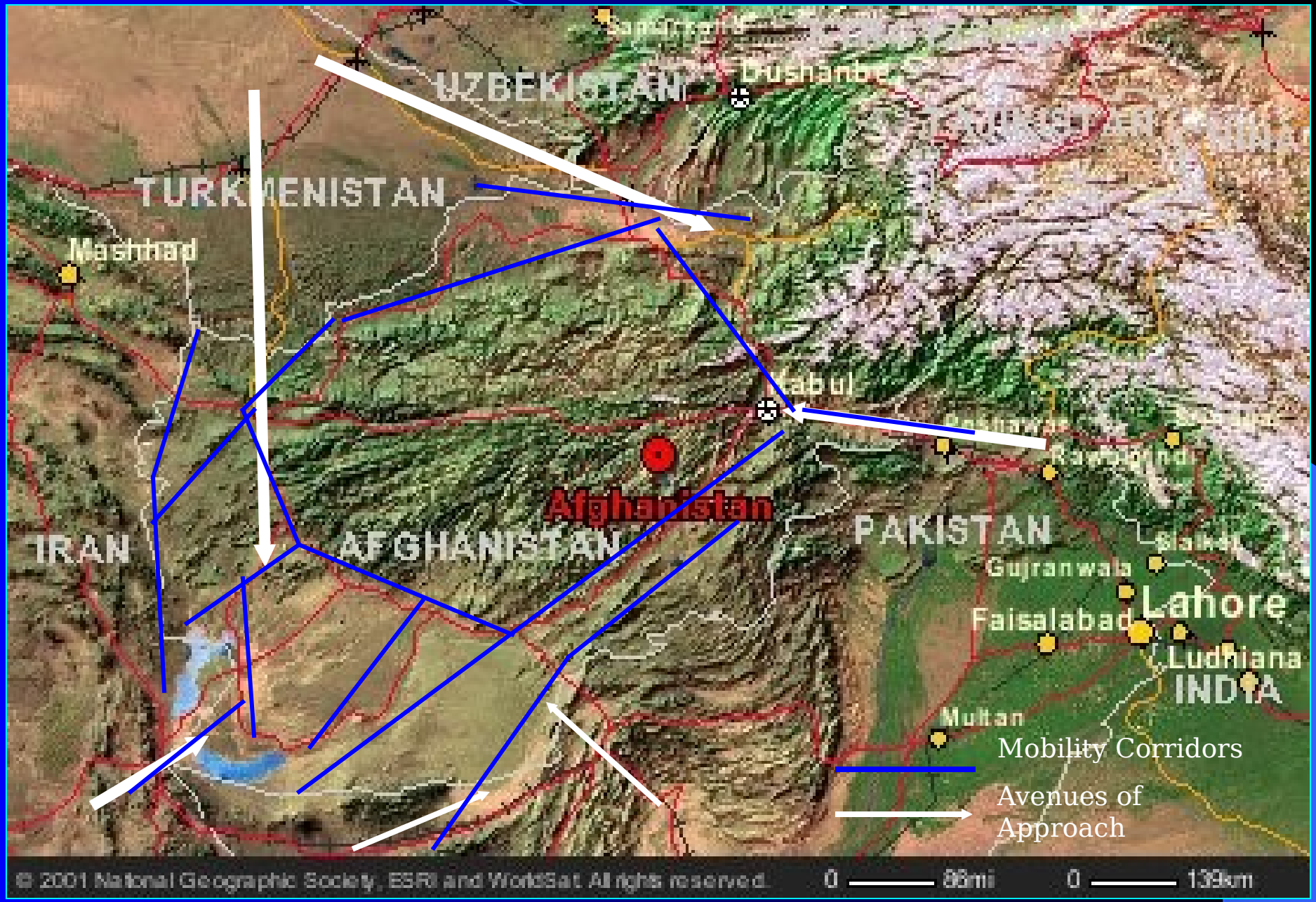
Geography Cont.

- Low lying areas continued:
- Plains: East
  - Largest plains are the Bactria and Turkestan.
  - Both merges into the steppe-lands of the former Soviet Central Asia.
  - Mechanized infantry can easily operate in this area with dismounted infantry.
- Southeast- the Kabul Basin is relatively flat fringed with steep mountain ridges. This area complements Mechanized infantry with dismounted infantry.
- Northwest- two major passes known as the Vale of Bamian provides access through Turkmenistan.

Geography Cont.

- Southwest- an area that is extremely windy for 120 days out of the year provides low-land passes into desert areas. Although armor is better used as a reserve force in this country, it can maneuver in this area.

Avenues of Approach and mobility corridors



Taliban Military

- History:
  - Formed for the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan
  - Composed of Pakistani volunteers (Ret Officers conducted training). Arab Volunteers also known as Osama Bin Ladens “055 Brigade”, and Afghani volunteers.
  - Total numbering 45,000.

Composition:

- An Army Corps based in Kabul commanded by Mullah Mohammad Fazi, along with an independent armored brigade.
- No divisional structure
- Task Forces throughout the country formed along ethnic lines.

Strength:

- Operational Level:
  - Ballistic Missiles:
    - Scud B: (Range 300 Kilometers)
    - The operational status of these missiles are doubtful. These systems have not been fired since there takeover in 1992, raising questions to their operability.
    - Two MAZ-543 transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) vehicles. One reported destroyed in 1998.
    - It is unclear whether they have the expertise required for maintaining, fueling, and coding the missiles.

Strength Cont.

- Tactical:
  - Artillery: Several hundred combined pieces. This is the most effective BOS of the Taliban specialized arms.
    - Inventory
      - BM-21

122 mm

Launch Capability: 40

Range 20,380

Artillery Cont.

- 76 mm GP M1966 mountain gun
- 152 mm M-1 (towed) howitzer
- 122 mm D-30 (towed) howitzer (Range: 17,200)
- 107 mm Type 63 multiple rocket system (Range: 8,500) Launch Capability: 12
- 120 and 82 mm mortars

Armor:

- The Taliban are estimated to field some 650 Main Battle Tanks and Armored Fighting Vehicles.
- There are questions to their serviceability, but it is significant that many armored vehicles in Kabul have been
- Inventory:
  - T-62

Coax 7.62 PKT MG

Armor Cont.

- T-54/55

Main gun: 100mm, Range: 1800m

- BMP 1/2s

Armor Cont.

- BTR-60/70s

- BRDM-2

Infantry:

- Infantry units play the most significant military role.
  - Inventory:
    - 7.62 mm AKMS assault rifles
    - 7.62 mm Type 56/56-1 assault rifles
    - 7.62 mm RPD/RPK machine guns
    - 7.62 mm PK general-purpose machine guns
    - RPG-7/Type 63 rocket launchers
    - 23 mm ZSU-2
    - 30 mm AGS-17 (automatic grenade launchers)
    - 75 mm Type 76 recoilless rifles
    - 82 mm Type 65 recoilless rifles

Air Defense:

- The weapon systems used by the Taliban military do not have acquisition type radar. However, during the Afghan/Soviet war Rebels had American stingers. Some of these may still exist.
  - Inventory:
    - 23 mm ZU-23-2 automatic cannons
    - 100 mm KS-19 anti-aircraft guns
    - 14.5 mm ZPU-1/2/4 heavy machine guns
  - Note: During several conflicts world-wide RPG's have proved effective in an AD capacity.

Assessment:

- In previous civil war conflicts the Taliban forces have proved effective in the use of surprise, mobility, speed, impressive logistics support and an efficient command and control, and communications and intelligence network.
- Taliban forces are dedicated to religious beliefs and their movement
- Strengths: Morale, command structure, and commanders who are free thinking.
- Weakness: Old equipment, not trained in mountain warfare like their rebel predecessors, and lack of funding.
- Note- Never mistake Superior technology over home land peasantry. (for example: Vietnam, Chechnya, and Afghanistan)